MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS   **OCTOBER 6, 2009**

<u>**Request for Review of LASD's Custody Release Policy**</u>

On September 17, 2009, at approximately 1:25 a.m., Mitrice Richardson disappeared after being released from the Sheriff's Substation in Calabasas. Ms. Richardson is 24 years old, five-foot, five-inch, African American woman. She was last seen wearing jeans and a dark T-shirt. When she was released from the Sheriff's Substation in Calabasas, she was not in possession of a car, cell phone, or purse.

Her vanishing prompted a massive but unsuccessful ground and air search on Saturday. The search was conducted by members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD"), aided by trained volunteers. The current investigation is being conducted by LAPD detectives.

This case highlights the need to review the procedures under which the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department operates in releasing persons who have been detained by the Department. This is especially true when persons are released after normal business hours.

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<u>MOTION</u>

MOLINA   _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS_____

YAROSLAVSKY   _____

ANTONOVICH   _____

KNABE   _____

I THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Request the Sheriff's Department to:

1. Prepare a report regarding the circumstances related to Mitrice Richardson's release from custody;

2. Include in the report the Sheriff's Department's release from custody policy, including procedures for releasing persons after normal business hours, persons who are alone, persons who are without visible means of travel, or who may have disabilities or impairments which may pose a risk to themselves;

3. Examine such procedures and include recommendations to improve such procedures to avoid such incidents in the future; and

4. Report back to this Board in writing within thirty days.

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